

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE VILLAGE OF HAYWOOD CITY CELEBRATE NEW COMMUNITY CENTER**

On Monday, April 6, 2009, Greg Batson, Dexter Area Director for USDA Rural Development, joined Missouri Department of Economic Development and members of the Village of Haywood City for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly constructed Community Center in Haywood City. USDA Rural Development provided \$15,000 in grant funds to assist in the construction of the Center to serve the residents of the Village.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stated, "The new community center in the Village of Haywood will provide important educational services. I applaud the USDA and the local leadership for investing in this worthy project that will provide computer training and tutoring for many Haywood residents."

"Community centers are a great place for Missouri families to come together with other people in their neighborhoods," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. "I'm thrilled to see federal grant dollars going to Haywood City to support building such an important resource for the area."

The Community Center will be used as a Learning Center to provide computer training and tutoring under the auspices of Lincoln University Extension Center. The Center will also be available for residents to rent for special occasions. The 2000 square foot building was designed to comfortably accommodate 60 people and is equipped with adequate restroom facilities, office space, storage and a kitchen. Nearly 40 residents of Haywood City contributed approximately \$4,600 worth of donated labor to construct the Center. In addition to the grant funds provided by Rural Development, the Village was also awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$186,000 from Missouri Department of Economic Development.

"USDA Rural Development plays an integral role in helping the plans of communities in our congressional district become reality. I'm very proud that Haywood City has a new community center to host events and programs. I have to thank everyone who worked on this important project and congratulate them on a job well done," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The funding awarded to the Village of Haywood City is provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program. In addition to Community Centers, the CF loan and grant program also provides funding to help rural communities finance essential community facilities, health services, and the purchase of equipment which will provide vital services to rural residents. Some examples include financing an ambulance, warning sirens, fire-fighting equipment, jaws-of-life, generators, communications equipment, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

Mayor Johnny Avance said, "The new Community Center is a great asset to our community. It will be used as a learning center under the auspices of Lincoln University Extension Center. The Center



will also be available for rent to the residents of Haywood City for special occasions. We would like to extend our thanks to USDA Rural Development and the Missouri Department of Economic Development for making this project a reality.”

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community in providing essential services,” said Batson. “These projects mirror USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has utilized a variety of programs and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Charleston Rural Development Office at [cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov](mailto:cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov) or by calling 573-649-9947, ext. 4. Rural Development’s web site is: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo).

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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